

PRAYER.

T. G. WOOD.

How simple and plain yet how important is the subject of prayer. I do not attempt to define the prayer that Christ the Lord taught his disciples to pray, for I feel unable to comprehend, less able to explain, all that is contained therein. The true and earnest desire of the heart expressed to God we call prayer, and if uttered in faith it is the greatest means of spiritual growth, but without living faith it will never reach the highest summit of the hill of the Lord. Christ said, "No man cometh unto the father except by me," and without faith Christ will profit you nothing.

Dear reader you must believe there is a Lord and that he is a rewarder, before we can successfully implore his blessings upon us, then it must be in the name, and for the sake of our advocate Christ Jesus. Then how useless it is to pray by form and not in spirit and in truth; we may have a formal prayer, and have the words and sentences ever so well connected, but it will fail to illuminate the soul, because it fails to humbly represent the needs of the hungry soul.

Remember the publican that prayed and said "Lord have mercy on me a sinner" and smote upon his breast, he went down justified rather than the man that prayed a self-justifying prayer. It is our duty to pray much, and what a privilege it is to talk with the Master. When we pray we should put ourselves in line with our prayer. The true thought is this, prayer to God to keep us from the evil that is in the world, is a promise to God that we will, as much as possible, keep ourselves from the evil and leave the result with him. If we pray the Lord to help us to overcome some evil habit of ours, (and you know we are not all perfect) and still continue to engage in the same habit daily, we can pray that way even until Christ shall come again, and by transgressing our prayers, which is God's ordered means of our coming to him; and such will never square our lives by the pattern of the life of Christ. And under that line of work I think we would be forced to say "There stands the tree just as I expected." But let us put our lives in the work so that when we pray we will expect what we ask for. Some say, Does God answer prayer? We say, yes, of course he does. If we right ourselves and comply with his conditions whatsoever ye ask in faith ye shall receive. How comforting it is when the storms of life are raging, to know that the one in whom we trust will in answer to our prayer speak the storms to cease.

By prayer the windows of heaven were

closed that it did not rain for three years and six months, in answer to prayer they were open again. By prayer the prison doors were opened and the very walls were shaken. Notwithstanding the signing of the decree by the king, Daniel kneeled before his open window three times a day and prayed. How many of us fail to bow around our family altar to pray even once a day? A talk with Jesus makes us feel so childlike and as we earnestly pray we are filled with a spirit of submission, and in spite of natural affection and human desires we are ready to say "Not my will but thine be done."

Dear reader, let us often resort to our closets to pray. When we are burdened and cast down, a little talk with Jesus makes it all right.

Fort Scott, Kans.

GOD IN HUMANITY.

C. H. BALSBAUGH.

Dear Brother in Christ. Thank you for your generous suggestion. I have learned a better way than to make my wants known to others. God has taught me the preciousness of waiting directly and only on Him. Unspeakably sweet have Ps. 62: 5 and Phil. 4: 19 become to me. The bank of heaven is always solvent. Stamps and stationery are treasured there as well as "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." In Christ are resources which cover all the necessities of body and soul. When I need aught that concerns my pen-ministry and other literary work, I apply as freely at the mercy seat for money and stationery as for light and strength and comfort for the inner life. In John 14: 13, 14 and 15: 7, the soul finds perfect rest in all circumstances. In Is. 52: 6, we read "My people shall know my name." The names of God are many. One is *Jehovah Jireh*. This is the name for every moment and condition of the Christian life. This name is perfectly realized in Christ. See Col. 2: 9. In Emmanuel is found all that God is, all he can give, all he can do. *And Christ is ours.* He is *the door* into *all the fulness of God* to "every one that believeth."

What a wonderful truth lies hidden in Eph. 3: 16-19. We do not half believe it. We say Lord, Lord, but we do not know what the name means. "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." John 17: 3. The supreme desire of Paul was, "that I may know him." Phil. Only the Holy Ghost can reveal Jesus to us. This is His gracious mission. John 16: 13-15. A wonderful vision of Christ will He give us if

we yield ourselves wholly to His dominion. Perfect faith brings perfect peace; and perfect faith means perfect consecration. Christ will not share his throne with a rival. God and mammon can never compromise. Flesh and spirit never coalesce. "To be carnally minded is death; to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Rom. 8: 6. The church of the nineteenth century knows little of the great spiritual secrets of the first. There is vast knowledge *about* Christ, but little knowledge of Christ. God may be known as certainly as we know ourselves, and in the same way—by *spiritual consciousness*. Christianity is a Divine Immanence; less than this is not salvation. Forever and ever we cannot be Christians by self-endeavor, it must be by the indwelling Christ through the Holy Ghost by faith. Let us live and love and work as duplicates of Emmanuel, then our mission will count, because the Holy boast and grand confession of Paul is ours. I Cor. 15: 10.

THE WINTER'S WORK.

I have not lived so many years that I can say with the Psalmist, "Now I am old," but I well remember the time, when, to me, the years dragged slowly by, and I wished for the power to hurry them on their way. How anxious we were to be men, and to enter upon the duties of manhood, little dreaming of what future days had in store for us. Time no longer drags heavily by with leaden feet, but with swift flying days, months and seasons, it is winged into eternity, to meet us again only when we stand at the bar of judgment, in the eternity of God. Why, it seems scarcely longer than yesterday that the chilling north wind gave notice of the coming of winter, and now to-day, the balmy wind, heralds the approach of spring. Why is it so? Why do we grow older so rapidly now, when we have ceased to wish for it? *Ah, we are busy.* In the labor, involving momentous issues, we cease to note the flight of time, for every energy is fixed upon the duties in which we are engaged. The months and years are just as long as of yore, but we see it not, and ere we realize it, another year is added to the number of those through which we have passed, and we are "nearer home." To him who labors in the world's great field, no word is dearer than "home." In the evening of life, when our duties shall have been faithfully and conscientiously discharged, may we enter into its peace, its quiet and its joys, and be at rest forevermore. Thank God for the Christian's hope, and for the solid ground on which it rests.

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